

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PROORITY 1009

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8205

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, JA, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET STATEMENT ON SINO-JAPANESE TREATY

SUMMARY: JAPANESE GOVT HAS REACTED COOLLY TO SOVIET STATEMENT URGING IN EFFECT THAT JAPAN NOT CONCLUDE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH PEKING. PRIVATELY, JAPANESE PUZZLED BY TIMING OF SOVIET MOVE, SINCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEKING AT STANDSTILL. SOVIET STATEMENT MAY ENCOURAGE TOKYO AND PEKING TO PLAY DOWN DIFFERENCES AND TO PRETEND PFT NEGOTIATIONS STILL ALIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SOVIET GOVT "STATEMENT TO GOVT OF JAPAN" HEADLINED IN TOKYO PRESS EVENING JUNE 18. STATEMENT REPORTEDLY CRITICIZES CHINESE LEADERS FOR TRYING TO COMPLICATE SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS THROUGH THEIR HANDLING OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR SINO-JAPANESE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY. STATEMENT EXPRESSES HOPE THAT JAPAN WILL TAKE NO ACTION DETRIMENTAL TO DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN USSR AND JAPAN, AND URGES BOTH SIDES TO REALIZE
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IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS ON BASIS

OF "GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS AND FRIENDSHIP".

2. PRIMIN MIKI, ASKED IN DIET FOR REACTION TO STATEMENT, SAID SOVIET UNION MISUNDERSTANDS JAPANESE INTENTIONS. "WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC COUNTRY, LIKE SOVIET UNION, IN MIND WHEN WE NEGOTIATE WITH PEKING," PRESS REPORTS MIKI AS SAYING. "SO-CALLED ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE", HE ADDED, "IS NOTHING BUT PRINCIPLE FOR PEACE WHICH WILL BE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED." FONMIN MIYAZAWA EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT IN DIET DENYING THAT JAPAN HAD ANY INTENTION OF COMPLICATING SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS. CABINET SECRETARY IDE ISSUED STATEMENT UNDERLINING JAPAN'S BASIC POLICY OF MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. GOVT PLANS FORMAL COUNTERSTATEMENT WITHIN NEXT DAY OR TWO.

3. ACCORDING TO FONOFF FIRST EAST EUROPEAN DIVDIR ARAI, STATEMENT IS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS THAT READ BY FONMIN GROMYKO TO AMB SHIGEMITSU DURING THEIR 30-MINUTE MEETING IN MOSCOW JUNE 12. AT MEETING, GROMYKO INFORMED AMB OF SOVIET GOVT INTENTION TO PUBLISH STATEMENT LATER.

4. THOUGH THE WORD "HEGEMONY" NOT MENTIONED, GOJ LEADERS HAVE NO DOUBTS ABOUT SOVIET MOTIVATION FOR ISSUING STATEMENT. THEY REMAIN BEMUSED BY TIMING OF SOVIET ACTION, HOWEVER. WHY, ARAI'S SUPERIORS REPEATEDLY ASKED HIM, WOULD SOVIETS SEE NEED FOR MOVE TO PREVENT CONCLUSION OF PFT WHEN TREATY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA HAD STALLED AND PROSPECTS FOR SPEEDY AGREEMENT SEEMED SO DIM? ARAI'S ONLY ANSWER SO FAR HAS BEEN TO SPECULATE THAT WHEELS OF SOVIET GOVT TURN SLOWLY, AND THAT AT TIME INITIATIVE TO PREPARE STATEMENT APPROVED IN MOSCOW, IT MAY HAVE LOOKED AS THOUGH PRIMIN MIKI'S FOUR POINTS SIGNALLED JAPANESE INTENT TO CAVE IN TO CHINESE DEMANDS.

5. COMMENT: SOVIET STATEMENT UNLIKELY TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO DEFUNCT SINO-JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS POINT. HOWEVER, IT WILL PLACE BOTH JAPANESE AND CHINESE UNDER MORE PRESSURE TO MAINTAIN FICTION THAT NEGOTIATIONS STILL UNDERWAY. FOR EXAMPLE, CABINET SECRETARY IDE'S STATEMENT MADE POINT THAT JAPAN AND CHINA "NOW IN MIDST OF CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS ENERGETICALLY". SOVIET STATEMENT MAY ALSO ENCOURAGE PEKING AND

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TOKYO TO KEEP DIFFERENCES AS QUIET AS POSSIBLE.
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